

## WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A system for managing a communication session over a computer network that includes a gatekeeper, the system comprising:
- (a) a network connector for connecting to the computer network and for receiving data packets from the computer network;
  - (b) a filtering unit for filtering said data packets and for accepting said data packets substantially only if said data packets contain data selected from the group consisting of audio data and video data, such that said data packets form at least a portion of the communication session and such that said data packets are selected data packets;
  - (c) a management unit for receiving said selected data packets and for storing said selected data packets, such that said selected data packets are stored data packets;
  - (d) a storage medium for receiving and for storing said stored data packets from said management unit, such that said at least a portion of the communication session is stored; and
  - (e) a link, between the gatekeeper and said management unit, for transferring information related to said data packets from the gatekeeper to said management unit.
2. The system of claim 1, further comprising:
- (f) a data restore unit for retrieving and displaying said at least a portion of the communication session, said data restore unit requesting said data

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packets from said storage medium through said management unit, and said data restore unit reconstructing said data packets for displaying said at least a portion of the communication session.

3. The system of claim 2, wherein said data restore unit further comprises a communication session display unit for displaying said at least a portion of the communication session.

4. The system of claim 3, wherein said communication session display unit is selected from the group consisting of a video unit and an audio unit.

5. The system of claim 2, further comprising:

(g) a database connected to said filtering unit for storing filtering information, said filtering information including at least one IP address of a party whose communication sessions are monitored;

wherein said filtering unit accepts said data packets according to said filtering information, such that said filtering unit substantially only accepts said data packets if said data packets fulfill said filtering information.

6. The system of claim 5, further comprising:

(h) a user computer for receiving at least one command of a user and for displaying information to said user, such that said user determines said filtering information according to said at least one command of said user.

7. The system of claim 6, wherein the computer network is selected from the group consisting of a LAN (local area network) and a WAN (wide area network).

8. The system of claim 7, wherein the computer network is a LAN (local area network).

9. The system of claim 8, wherein said LAN is divided into at least two segments, the system further comprising:

- (i) a local management unit for each segment, said local management unit including said filtering unit and said management unit; and
- (j) a central management unit for controlling said local management units, said central management unit controlling storage in said storage medium.

10. The system of claim 1, wherein said network connector is a network interface card.

11. A method for conducting a communication session on a computer network between a packet source and a packet destination, comprising the steps of:

- (a) setting up the communication session according to a first protocol suite; and
- (b) storing at least a portion of the communication session according to a second protocol suite different from said first protocol suite, said storing

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being performed by a data processor.

12. The method of claim 11, wherein said second protocol suite is an IP protocol suite.

13. The method of claim 11, wherein said storing is effected by steps including:

- (i) receiving a data packet from the packet source on the computer network;
- (ii) analyzing said data packet to determine if said data packet is in accordance with said second protocol suite; and
- (iii) storing said data packet to form a stored data packet, such that said stored data packet forms at least a portion of the communication session.

14. The method of claim 13, wherein the step of analyzing said data packet is performed by examining a header of said data packet.

15. The method of claim 13, wherein the step of storing said at least a portion of the communication session further comprises the step of:

- (iv) subsequent to said analyzing, if said data packet is in accordance with said second protocol suite, filtering said data packet to determine a type of said data packet.

16. The method of claim 15, wherein the step of analyzing said data packet is performed by examining a header of said data packet.

17. The method of claim 16, wherein the step of filtering said data packet is performed by examining said header of said data packet.

18. The method of claim 17, wherein said second protocol suite is an IP protocol suite, wherein said data packet in accordance with said second protocol suite is an IP packet, and wherein the step of filtering said IP packet further comprises the steps of:

- (A) examining said header of said IP packet to determine an IP address of said packet source;
- (B) determining if said IP address is a recorded IP address;
- (C) passing said IP packet to form a passed IP packet substantially only if said IP address is said recorded IP address; and
- (D) alternatively, dumping said IP packet.

19. The method of claim 18, wherein the step of determining if said IP address is said recorded IP address is performed by comparing said IP address to a list of IP addresses from packet sources, such that if said IP address is included in said list, said IP address is said recorded IP address.

20. The method of claim 18, wherein if said passed IP packet is an RTP packet, storing said RTP packet.

21. The method of claim 18, wherein if said passed IP packet is an RTCP packet, storing said RTCP packet.

22. The method of claim 15, wherein said storing of said data packet is effected according to said type of said data packet.

23. The method of claim 13, wherein the step of storing at least a portion of the communication session further comprises the steps of:

- (iv) retrieving said stored data packet to form a retrieved data packet; and
- (v) reconstructing at least a portion of the communication session according to said retrieved data packet.

24. The method of claim 23, wherein said second protocol suite is an IP protocol suite, and wherein the step of retrieving said data packet includes the steps of:

- (A) receiving a source IP address of the packet source, a start time of the communication session, and an end time of the communication session;  
and
- (B) selecting at least one communication session according to said source IP address, said start time and said end time.

25. The method of claim 23, wherein said second protocol suite is an IP protocol suite, and wherein the step of retrieving said data packet includes the steps of:

- (A) receiving identifying information related to the communication session, a start time of the communication session and an end time of the

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communication session;

- (B) inferring a source IP address from said identifying information; and
- (C) selecting at least one communication session according to said source IP address, said start time and said end time.

26. The method of claim 23, wherein the step of reconstructing at least a portion of the communication session includes displaying audio data.

27. The method of claim 23, wherein the step of reconstructing at least a portion of the communication session includes displaying video data.

28. The method of claim 23, wherein said second protocol suite is an IP protocol suite, and wherein the step of reconstructing at least a portion of the communication session further comprises the steps of:

- (A) retrieving substantially only RTP packets;
- (B) examining a header of said RTP packets to determine a time stamp for each of said RTP packets; and
- (C) displaying said RTP packets in an order according to said time stamp.

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